

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 29

Recommending the integration of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 1997

Mr. GORTON submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recommending the integration of Estonia, Latvia, and
Lithuania into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Whereas the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are undergoing a historic process of democratic and free market transformation after emerging from decades of brutal Soviet occupation;

Whereas each of the Baltic countries has conducted peaceful transfers of political power since 1991;

Whereas the governments of the Baltic countries have been exemplary in their respect for human rights and civil liberties and have made great strides toward establishing the rule of law;

Whereas the governments of the Baltic countries have made consistent progress toward establishing civilian control of

their military forces and, through active participation in the Partnership for Peace and the peace support operations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (in this resolution referred to as “NATO”), have clearly demonstrated their ability and willingness to operate with the forces of NATO nations and under NATO standards;

Whereas each of the Baltic countries has made progress toward implementing a free market system which has and will continue to foster the economic advancement of the people of the Baltic region;

Whereas the Baltic region has often been a battleground for the competing territorial designs of nearby imperial powers which, along with other factors, has contributed to a history of insecurity and instability in the region;

Whereas NATO has been a force for stability, freedom, and peace in Europe since 1949;

Whereas NATO has indicated it will begin to invite new members in 1997; and

Whereas Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, exercising their inherent right as participating states in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, have voluntarily applied for membership in NATO: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are to be
4 commended for their progress toward political and
5 economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for prospective NATO members set out in chapter 5 of the
6 September 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;
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1 (2) Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would make
2 an outstanding contribution to NATO if they be-
3 come members;

4 (3) eventual extension of full NATO member-
5 ship to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania would make
6 a singular and lasting contribution toward stability,
7 freedom, and peace in the Baltic region;

8 (4) upon satisfying the criteria for NATO mem-
9 bership, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania should be
10 invited to become full members of NATO at the ear-
11 liest possible date; and

12 (5) Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania should be
13 invited to attend the NATO summit in Madrid on
14 July 8 and 9, 1997.

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